

ER 95-8023
23 January 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with John Hanford,
Senator Lugar's Staff

1. On Friday, 20 January, I spoke with John Hanford about the attached article. Senator Lugar had spoken with Jim Woolsey about the article on 19 January. Woolsey, in turn, had asked ADCI Studeman to follow up.

2. In the conversation with Mr. Hanford, I confirmed that:

- Two Executive Orders, one on general declassification and one on imagery declassification, are in preparation and will be issued in the coming weeks.
- Imagery along the lines described in the article might or might not be included in the declassified materials.
- No effort is now underway to review imagery of the Mt. Ararat area in Turkey as part of a search for Noah's Ark. An extensive effort had been undertaken two or three years ago (including a look at both overhead and tactical imagery without success).

3. Mr. Hanford thanked me for the information. He noted that he had accompanied Senator Lugar to a White House meeting during the Bush tenure at which Bob Gates (then at the NSC) had shown one of the old images of the Mt. Ararat area. Mr. Hanford said that imagery showed something sticking out from the ice and snow--but that it could have been almost anything.

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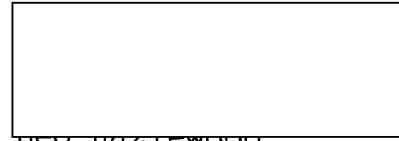
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4. I invited Mr. Hanford to call me directly in case Senator Lugar wanted any additional information on this subject.



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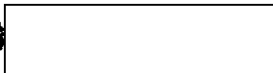
LEE HAZLEWOOD
Executive Director

Attachment:

Article: "President Clinton may
sign executive order to release
crucial CIA photos," Turkish
Daily News (17 February 1995)

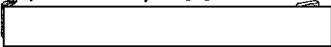
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Executive order to release crucial CIA photos

1993 is believed to show Noah's Ark on Mount Ararat in Eastern Turkey

In Washington, an executive-order-in-preparation was none other than the departing chief of CIA, Director James Woolsey himself.

In a testimony he gave at the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on January 11, 1995, he confirmed that such an executive directive could be signed any time soon. Answering a question on the "prioritization of intelligence" data, Woolsey said that a "presidential decision directive I think will be coming out here within the next few weeks."

They sign executive order to release crucial CIA photos

Up that would lead to the Yom Kippur War in the following October. Thus the U.S. wanted to get pictures of the Soviet troop movements and the Soviet nuclear missile site forty miles to the east of Mount Ararat. "According to the rumor when I was at West Point, one of our military reconnaissance satellites flying over the

Soviet-Turkish border taking pictures of top-secret Soviet missile site on the Soviet border has captured something else instead," he said. "Someone accidentally turned on the camera a few seconds early, and the satellite picked up a large 'anomalous object' jutting out of the ice cap located at about 13,000 foot level on the north face of Mount Ararat." The rumor was that the object was manmade, constructed of wood, and over 400 feet in estimated length.

The photo was the subject of a CBS television prime time two-hour special aired on February 20, 1993, "The Incredible Discovery of Noah's Ark." On that show, several retired military pilots claimed that the Pentagon had quality photos of the "object."

There have been numerous attempts in the past to discover "Noah's Ark" on Mt. Ararat, including much publicized expeditions organized by U.S. astronaut Jim Irving. None of these expeditions produced any conclusive results. What convinced Taylor as to the authenticity of the rumored photo was the confirmation he received from one of the esteemed names of the U.S. intelligence community, George A. Carver, Jr. Carver served as deputy for National Intelligence to two former CIA Directors and as the senior U.S. intelligence officer in NATO. He is the only person in the history of the CIA to be twice awarded the Distinguished

Tim Weiner, writing in the New York Times on Oct. 30, 1994 previously confirmed that "Clinton administration promised a new executive order on government secrecy... It looked like documents 25 years or older would be readily declassified..." Jessica Matthews of the Council on Foreign Relations also wrote in the Washington Post on Nov. 13, 1994 that the Clinton administration is "set to issue a new executive order to... release old material," including potentially invaluable

See "CLINTON" on page A8

Intelligence Medal. Taylor met Dr. Carver at a Round Table meeting held on March 11, 1993 in Palm Beach, Florida. In the question and answer session following Carver's speech, Taylor asked him if he had any comments on the "Ararat Anomaly" photo. Carver said "I do remember at the time there were some pictures taken, and there were clear indications that there was something up on Mt. Ararat, which was rather strange. There were various archaeological expeditions that were mounted. The Turkish government was not too thrilled about supporting them, because it was getting into an area that was politically dicey from the Turks' point of view." Carver added that "the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, might not be all that bad as history also" since it talked about Noah's Ark landing on Mt. Ararat.

Frank Cilluffo, a fellow at the Center of Strategic and International Studies, who had worked with Dr. Carver in the past as his assistant on various projects, confirmed for TDN that "Dr. Carver was very excited" about the "Ararat Anomaly" photo in question.

The TDN has learned that a senior member of the U.S. Congress is now aware of the issue and one of his top aides reportedly got in touch with the CIA and the White House, as well as the National Security Council for inclusion of such CIA photos within the expected presidential directive. A source close to the CIA confirmed for TDN that the directive "might be signed soon" by President Clinton. Yet the White House refrained from confirming or denying the directive and its contents. "I am not authorized to talk to press on that," a White House press official told TDN. CNN and Time magazine are expected to do special sto-